

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron HMM-261 (REIN)



The Raging Bulls' Newsletter **The Bulls Eye**



CO's Corner

Raging Bulls,

First, Michele and I would like to wish all the members of the squadron a Happy New Year! We hope that that you enjoyed your holidays with families and friends, and that you find this year better than the last!

As we start this new year, the time has arrived once again for HMM-261 to welcome aboard attachments from across 2d MAW as we have now officially become a composite squadron as of 31 January 2007. To the Marines of Sailors of HML/A-269, HMH-464, MWSS-274, MALS-26, MALS-14, and MACG-28, we are excited in joining you and your families among our ranks! The upcoming year will prove to be extremely challenging, but one that I'm certain we will find rewarding as we prepare for yet another deployment with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit. Not to be overlooked, our VMA-223 harrier detachment will join the squadron in April, and we look for-

ward to their arrival as well.

For those of you new to this adventure, the composite squadron is now known as HMM-261 (Rein). Bringing together a small slice of the capabilities within a Marine Aircraft Wing, we have embarked upon a challenging six month pre-deployment training program that will take us from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Fort Pickett, Virginia, with several training periods afloat aboard the USS Kearsarge. Upon completion of this training program in July 2007, HMM-261 (Rein) will set sail with the Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group for 6 months. At this point it is certainly too early to know exactly where and what we will be doing. As soon as we know for certain, I will pass that information along.

Throughout the workups, I will provide routine updates on the training of your Marines and Sailors through various means. The squadron newsletter and our web site will

contain information about our on-going training, articles of interest, and photos of the unit in action. Additionally, the squadron's Key Volunteer Network will be assisting the command in passing information along about important deployment dates, and upcoming squadron events that I personally relay to them. Families should expect to be contacted in the near future by a Key Volunteer as we solidify our final roster. For those of you interested in assisting the squadron, we are always looking for new Key Volunteers who are energetic, and have a desire to lend a helping hand. Please contact my family Readiness Officer, 1stLt Clark, if you are interested.

Again, welcome to all who have just joined the unit. Michele and I look forward to meeting each one of you during the course of the next year!

Rage On!

LtCol Jim and Michele Flynn

First Quarter
CY 2007
February

HMM-FRO
1st Lt Kevin Clark
910-449-7102
Duty Phone
910-449-6664

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Want a better understanding of the Marine Corps? Take a LINKS class and get informed!

March 20-21 9:00-1:00
Held at the MCFTB, New River

* Free onsite childcare
Register to 451-1299

Sergeant Major's Corner

Family and Friends of the Raging Bulls,

Here we go the start of a New Year; I hope all enjoyed your holidays! As we all know our deployment date is approaching rapidly. Many of us have adjusted to the multiple deployments that have become the norm in our military. As I have expressed to all of our Marines this will be a great deployment! Although separations are

difficult they have become more bearable. The technology that we have today helps ease our minds.

We have a great team, and we will succeed in any mission assigned, I am very proud to be part of such a great organization. We have, what I consider a great Key Volunteer Network one of the best that I come to see in the ten different units which I have had the privilege to serve with. All of these ladies are volunteers and have a

wealth of experience and knowledge. Once again I look forward to the start and most importantly the return of our deployment!

Sincerely
Sgt Maj A. J. Andrade

XO's Corner

Dear Raging Bull Family and Friends,

Hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and got to spend some time with their Marines during some well deserved leave. As we enjoy the colder weather as it is tries to act like winter for a change, I would like to welcome all of our new families and friends aboard and to say farewell to all of the Raging Bull families who have departed or will soon depart. The last month has seen a lot of changes to the Raging Bull family. As we have composited with the 22d MEU, there have been a lot of personnel changes around the squadron as those families that will not deploy with us have moved on and their replacements continue to arrive daily.

Over the last week the squadron has undergone our biggest change of the year as we joined all of our det families and the squadron tripled in size. We send a special welcome to all of our detachment families as you join the Raging Bull herd. We hope to get your families integrated as quickly as possible. With this we have the chance to meet many new friends, get reacquainted with some that we haven't seen in a long time, and welcome back some that have only been gone since last summer.

Throughout this period, your Marines have continued to do an outstanding job, and I am confident that

their excellent work and attitudes will continue as we move into our pre-deployment work-ups. I would also like to thank all of the families who provided support on the home front. Please continue to be actively involved in our KV program, and if you are interested in becoming a KV, please contact one of the current KVs or the Family Readiness Officer.

Respectfully,
LtCol Mike "Whip" Snyder

Promotion/Awards

DECEMBER

CPL
LCpl Tarr

SSgt
SSgt Jiles

Capt
1st Lt DO
1st Lt Sullivan

JANUARY

CPL
LCpl Cancino

Capt
1st Lt Brooker

FEBRUARY

MSgt
GySgt Phillips

NAMS
SSgt Rodriguez

Certificates of Commendation

Sgt Wingfield
LCpl Mosely
LCpl Waller

Family Readiness Officer

Raging Bull's Family and Friends,

First of all, let me say what an honor it is to be assigned the most important job in the squadron. Ensuring our friends and families are in the proper state of mind and have the immediate resources available to allow their marines to properly focus on the day to day mission is so essential. You can be assured I will take great pride and care in ensuring this task is fulfilled, as I always make sure my own family is set for deployment.

What is my plan to tackle such a tall task? First, we have begun

to assemble a great team, which is essential to achieving anything in life. I personally have been married and in the Corps for over fifteen years and have had the opportunity to gain experience and resources from numerous situations. GySgt Jackson will be our Family Readiness SNCO for the deployment and has many years of experience as well. The Key Volunteers we have in place and those we will continue to recruit will also draw from their past training and experience to solve any assigned crisis. Secondly, as a team we will handle any issue as if it were our own and approach it with the

care and consideration it deserves.

If you have any interest in becoming part of the Key Volunteer Program, we would love to have your experience on the team. Your help would assist in maintaining unit Family Readiness ensuring Mission Readiness so please don't hesitate to get involved. I really do look forward to getting to know each of the Raging Bulls families personally and please know your Family's Readiness is in good hands.

Very Respectfully,
1st Lt Kevin "Sparky" Clark

Key Volunteer News

Hello all you Raging Bull families!!!

It is the start of another year, and the beginning phases of deployment. Some of us start off our new year with ideas of becoming more organized in our lives. As you start implementing those ideas, also consider some check lists to get things organized before the deployment.

Household items:

- Batteries in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
- AC unit filters
- Phone #'s to repair facilities
- Location of circuit breakers
- Water shut off valve
- Mixed fuel for gas powered outdoor items

Vehicles:

- STATE INSPECTION – expiration dates
- Oil changes
- Tire rotation – or replacement
- Radiator flush
- Brakes

• Battery

I know that we all have our own ways of doing things, but in the process of making sure birth certificates, marriage licenses and other important documents are readily available, lets prepare to handle all those little things that tend to creep up on us when our minds are filled with so much more important thoughts.

Remember assistance is always a phone call away and that is the wonderful benefits of having a great group of Key Volunteers ready and willing to get you headed in the right direction.

Sincerely
Your Co-KVC

Hello Raging Bull Families,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I will be one of the two unit KVCs for the deployment. My husband is 1st Lt

Kevin Clark, yes, the Family Readiness Officer. We have been the Marine Corps for 15 years and we are all about keeping everyone informed and taking care of our own, which now includes the Raging Bulls' Families. If you would like to lend a hand and get involved, let your KV know or contact the FRO until we can get a good call tree established. If you would like to learn more about the Marine Corps and some of the valuable resources at our disposal in the surrounding area, I strongly recommend the L.I.N.K.S. class. I just took the class myself and learned quite a bit. I look forward to getting to know everyone and working together throughout the deployment and once again let me say how proud I am to be here and be a member of the Raging Bulls' Family.

Respectfully
Your CO-KVC

DATES TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- 26 February-Meet the CO night for all spouses at the MCAS Chapel 1830-1930.
- 6 March-L.I.N.K.S training Midway Park Chapel 9:00-4:30 Call 451-1299 for details.
- 20-21 March-L.I.N.K.S training at New River 9:00-1:00 Call 451-1299 for details.
- Day and Evening Key Volunteer Training Days available by calling 449-5343

There Is Help Out There!!!!

There are several methods by which Marines and families can obtain counseling assistance to help cope with the challenges of the military lifestyle.

- Military Treatment Facility (MTF) Mental Health Providers
 - 70 mental health providers at the MTF's support Marine Corps installations. This number includes 12 in recently established (and growing) Deployment Health Clinics.
 - They deal with the more complex cases in which a medical diagnosis is indicated.
- Marine and Family Services Counselors
 - 117 licensed clinicians, of which 102 are primary direct services providers, at Marine Corps Installations. The focus is short-term, solution focused counseling, with a maximum of 8 visits per case.
 - Their estimated case capacity is between 20,000 and 24,000 cases per year, depending upon case complexity.
- TRICARE
 - Affords family members with up to 8 visits with civilian mental health professionals to address mental health concerns (exclusive of marital and family counseling), without a referral or TRICARE authorization.
 - Continued visits after the 8, or more than 2 visits per week, require a referral from the family member's primary care provider.
 - Active Duty Marines require a referral to access any TRICARE mental health counseling.
 - There are 37,300 mental health providers in the CONUS TRICARE Prime system.
- Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC)
 - Managed Health Network, under contract to DoD, provide licensed clinicians to offer life management consultation to Marines and family members.
 - Reserve units have used this resource extensively for on-demand support of service members and families during return and reunion preparation, reintegration adjustments, post-deployment challenges, and multiple casualty responses.
 - Three installations currently use this resource to augment integral counseling capability during surges of demand (e.g. unit return).
 - The contract is being re-negotiated, so minimal expansion of current services is allowed until the new contract is awarded (Spring 07).
- Military OneSource
 - OneSource provides face-to-face counseling with a licensed clinician in the client's community.
 - Up to 6 sessions per year per family member per presenting problem.
 - In FY06, 1,806 sessions were documented.
 - Marketing of the extensive capabilities of Military OneSource continues to be the challenge.
- Other resources include unit and installation chaplains, the OSCAR teams within the Marine Divisions, and the Veterans Administration.

Scholarship Info

1. Vice Admiral E.P. Travers Scholarship and Loan Program

Deadline for applications: March 1, 2007

Scholarship Award: \$500 to \$2500

Loan: \$500 to \$3000

2. DECA Commissary Scholarship: Applications available at each installation commissary

Deadline for applications: February 21, 2007

Scholarship Award: \$1500

For further information visit their website at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>

There are many other scholarship opportunities out there for both spouses and dependent children. For further information contact your local education office or visit many of the numerous websites such as military.com to see what is available.

A Terrific Website for the Family

www.militarystudent.org

This website is designed to help service members, spouses, and children navigate the challenges associated with military deployments.



ICE

Who's heard of this? It stands for "In Case of Emergency." Store your emergency contact information in your cell phone as "ICE" in place of name. Emergency workers know to look for this information in case of a serious emergency.

Getting Involved

Anyone will tell you the key to getting through a deployment is staying busy. What better way than to help out with the squadron your spouse is deploying with?

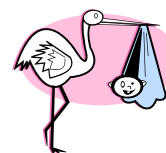
Here are some things you can do to help:

1.) Becoming a KV:

Call 449-5343 for info. Or contact your FRO or KV.

2.) Joining our Hospitality Committee:

We are in need of people to sign up for making baby and emergency meals. PLEASE sign up and help out.



New Baby Bulls!

Congratulations goes to the:
The Clemanns
The Wallers



Cut Costs

2 ways to save money now: Call your auto insurance and check on premiums lowering due to deployed spouse. Call your credit card companies and check to see if they will lower your APR...never hurts to ask and sometimes the answer is YES!

Useful Websites and Telephone Numbers

Official HMM-261 Website:

<http://www.2maw.usmc.mil/MAG26/HMM261/>

22nd MEU Official Website:

www.22meu.usmc.mil

Tricare

www.tricareonline.com

United Concordia Dental

www.ucci.com

Commissaries

www.commissaries.com

MCCS One Source

www.mccsonesource.com

Military Spouses Information

www.marinewives.com

Deployment

www.deploymentconnections.org

Operation Homefront

www.cinchouse.com

- * click on link to Operation Homefront
- * Then click on North Carolina on the R-side of screen.

PHONE NUMBERS:

22nd MEU Deployed Hotline:

1-877-817-7322

(910) 451-8780

Press "4" at the prompt

PMO New River
449-6111/6112

Jacksonville Police
346-9841

PMO Camp Lejeune
455-2555

PMO Cherry Point
466-4366/3615

Tax Center
449-7400

Base Stickers
449-6354

ID Cards
449-6354

DEERS
449-6354

American Red Cross
451-2182
1-877-272-7337

Duty Chaplain
910-449-1022

Joint Law Center
449-6169/7161

Substance Abuse Counseling New River
449-5249

Substance Abuse Counseling (Cherry Point)
466-2036/2192

Family Services Center
449-6185

Child Abuse Hotline
1800-412-4453

Family Advocacy Program New River
449-6110

Family Advocacy Program Cherry Point
466-3264

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society—New River
449-6642/6341

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society—Cherry Point
466-2031

MCCS
449-6577

Poison Control
1800-848-6946

Tricare
1-877-874-2273

Health Services Center
(910) 450-HELP (4357)

MCFTB/KV Training
449-5343

Family Readiness Officer:
1st Lt Clark 449-7102

Family Readiness SNCO:
GySgt Jackson 449-7124

MAG 26 FRO:
Capt Willows 449-6060

This is a non-profit organization designed to help out military families in need by soliciting civilians who donate their time/services.

"This newsletter is published with appropriated government funds to provide information of interest to 2dMAW families, Key Volunteers, and Family Readiness Officers and in no way shall be considered directive in nature. The contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the official view or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. Any mention of the commercial activity in this publication does not constitute endorsement of DOD of the product or services."